

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is this program like the Work Immersion program? How does it differ?
While the Qualified Hiring Opportunity Grant (Quahog) program provides a wage reimbursement for work experiences like the Work Immersion program; there are some key differences:

	Work Immersion	Quahog
Reimbursement Rate	35-50%	25%
Eligible candidates	Unemployed adults, college students and recent graduates, Career and Technical high school students	Unemployed Rhode Islanders over 18
Minimum/Maximum Hours	150-400	120-300
Maximum awards per Employer	5	10
Qualifying Positions	N/A	At least \$15/hr , 30hr/week
Additional Conditions	N/A	Employer must partner with the DLT on one or more qualifying hiring activities in the last six months (see program guidelines)

2. What does it mean to ‘partner with the DLT on one or more qualifying hiring activities in the last six months’?

There are two ways to meet this criteria (please review [Program Guidelines](#) for more details). Note that while employers must document partnership with the Department to be eligible for the Quahog program, employees named in a Quahog application do not have to have been hired through the Department

1. Post qualified job openings to the state job portal through EmployRI: Employers can post job openings on the Department’s virtual hiring board www.employri.org. If additional assistance is needed, please contact Christopher.Tanguay@dlt.ri.gov or 401-462-8791. Positions must pay no less than \$15.00/hr and be for no less than 30/hrs per week. The minimum required number of postings depends on the size of the employer:
 - a. Employers of 20 or fewer: 1 required job posting
 - b. Employers of 20-50: 3 required job postings
 - c. Employers of 50+: 5 required job postings
2. Host a virtual job fair/ hiring event: Employers can email DLT.ESU@DLT.RI.GOV to schedule a virtual job fair.

3. A work experience ended earlier than originally planned. Am I still eligible for a wage reimbursement for the time worked by the participant?
Yes, if the minimum hour commitment of 120 hours has been met.
4. Does my company still receive the full amount that was originally approved in the award letter?
No, the company will only be reimbursed for the amount of hours paid.
5. Can a participant be terminated?
Yes, the participant is an at-will employee as with any other employee. A reimbursement will be provided only for the hours worked provided the minimum hour requirement is met (see above).
6. What is Ocean State Procures? Why is registration with Ocean State Procures required?
Ocean State Procures is the state's supplier management system. The state cannot issue payment to an organization unless they are registered in the Ocean State Procures system. To avoid complications with paying employers, registration with Ocean State Procures is required before a Quahog application can be processed.
7. I have an issue registering with Ocean State Procures. Who do I contact?
You will need to contact the State Controller's Office, Division of Purchases, to resolve the issue. You can also contact WebProcure.Support@perfect.com or call (401) 574-8100.
8. An employee has been with us for a few weeks, but I only just recently learned about the Quahog program. Can I still enroll him/her into the program?
No, Quahog is not available for individuals with whom an employer already has an employment relationship.
9. An employee previously worked with my organization and I would like to hire them back. Can I enroll him/her into the program?
The Quahog program allows rehiring of staff that previously separated from the employer; however, the employee cannot have a prior employment relationship with the employer within the previous six (6) months of the date of application.
10. Is Quahog available for 1099 independent contractors?
No, Quahog is for employees hired directly onto an employer's payroll only (commonly referred to as "W2 employees").
11. The work experience is completed, and I submitted my payment request. How long will it take for me to receive the wage reimbursement?
Assuming all paperwork is submitted correctly and in full; up to 45 days.